



# NEWS RELEASE

## Lolo National Forest

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United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Lolo National Forest  
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## Recreation Fee Adjustments to be Submitted for Review

Missoula, MT. – The Lolo National Forest will be submitting requests this year to initiate fees at five recreation sites and recreation managers are soliciting public comments on the proposal. The fee process is done under the authority of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA or REA) and will be subject to review by a Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), with final approval by the Forest Service Northern Region office. Public comments will not be gathered as part of an environmental analysis document, but will be used to gauge public views and interest and will help the RAC members in their review.

The fee adjustments resulted from recommendations made in the Lolo's Recreation Facilities Analysis, a forest-wide recreation review done in 2007. This analysis looked at a five year plan for managing developed recreation on the forest in a sustainable manner, which includes plans to upgrade and improve existing facilities to reflect public need and user trends.

The Lolo Forest is interested in public comment on these proposed fee adjustments and the new fees, and welcomes any feedback from the public.

The forest will be submitting the following proposed new fees:

- Morgan Case Homestead (\$65 )
- Lake Inez Campground -- Group Site (\$14)
- Lakeside Campground standard site (\$14)
- Lakeside Campground -- Group Site (\$28)
- Double Arrow Lookout (\$50)

The intent of the Lolo's recreation fee program -- including the new fee proposals at the five sites -- is part of an overarching effort to focus forest resources consistent with the forest's Recreation Niche while sustaining quality recreation opportunities for the public. The forest recreation program for fees, maintenance, and improvement is organized under a five year program assessment. The program looks at strategies for decreasing annual and long term maintenance at sites, adding to and decreasing recreation facilities according to recreation use patterns, and adjusting existing fees and adding additional fee sites to the recreation program. The entire document outlining the Lolo Recreation Facilities Analysis process can be found on the Lolo National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/recreation/index-rfa.shtml>.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA or REA) allows for charging of fees for certain kinds of services and facilities. The Lolo National Forest charges fees for only those recreation sites that have substantial facility development (example: campgrounds and cabin and lookout rentals). The fees charged at the developed recreation sites remain on the forest and are used to supplement maintenance and operation funds at the recreation sites from which the fees were collected.

Examples of how the fees collected in recent years on the Lolo include: routine maintenance of cabin and lookout rentals, development of a unique interpretive program at the Seeley Lake campgrounds, improvement of accessibility at existing campsites to allow for greater use by all recreation users, and general upkeep of toilet buildings, picnic tables, and fire rings throughout the forest. For more information please contact Elizabeth Casselli at (406) 329-3724.

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